

9-7-07

Transit Baptist Church

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This picture taken about a hundred years ago shows the Transit Baptist Church in the Town of Murray. This congregation, organized in 1832, was known as the Gaines and Murray Baptist Church.

In 1835 they erected this frame church building facing south on the East Transit Church Road. The congregation prospered so that by 1879 it was reported this church had a membership of 147 and a Sunday School enrollment of 106 with 11 teachers.

Improvements were made to the physical property, including an addition to the rear of the church which backed up to the Transit Cemetery. In 1907 the church purchased an acre of land across the road from the church and in 1909 built a parsonage there. It is this house which shows to the left



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in our photo.

Around 1920 dissension occurred within the congregation and membership eventually dropped to 39. A full time minister could no longer be hired and services were finally discontinued in 1930.

In 1932 the Transit Grange voted to purchase this unused church for \$300 and then used it as a hall. The church also sold the parsonage for a private home. In 1958 the grange could no longer maintain the old church building for their

purposes and sold it for the lumber. It was then torn down in 1959 and remaining debris was burned by the Hulberton Fire Company. In 1960 the grounds were graded, seeded and deeded to the cemetery.